



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #11 – May 16, 2002

Internet Websites

The following are four FREE websites you can subscribe to that discuss various emergency management issues including basic EM program information to budget issues, homeland defense, and terrorism. Tom Mohr monitors 50+ websites on a weekly basis, these websites cover issues such equipment (past, present and future), planning, training and general issues concerning terrorism and homeland security. If you are interested in any specific area, please email Tom at tmohr@mail.state.mo.us

www.iaem.com

www.govexec.com/email

www.homelanddefensejournal.com

www.community-research.com

Summer Training Opportunities

Eight outstanding free classes are available this summer. Several classes are POST certified several are in the PDS and the APS series for emergency managers. You can fill out a class application on-line via the SEMA webpage or contact Training Assistant Susan Rhoades at 573-526-9121.

- June 4-5, **Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical & Explosive (BNICE)** conducted by RAM is POST certified will be conducted in the SEOC in Jefferson City,
- June 25-27, **Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts (Train-the-Trainer)** conducted by CRA is POST certified. It will be conducted in the SEOC in Jefferson City.
- June 26-27, **Developing Volunteer Resources (PDS)** with Dante Gliniecki (SEMA) and Erin Lynch (Red Cross). This Class will be held in the District Department of Health Offices in Independence.
- June 23-24, **Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical & Explosive (BNICE)** conducted by RAM is POST certified will be conducted in the SEOC in Jefferson City.
- August 6-7, **Emergency Planning (PDS)** will be conducted in Springfield.
- August 6-8, **Public Works: Preparing for and Responding to Terrorism/WMD** will be conducted in the SEOC in Jefferson City.
- September 4-5, **Developing Volunteer Resources** with Dante Gliniecki (SEMA), Dee Shukert (Salvation Army) and Jeff Campbell (Red Cross) will be conducted in Hannibal.

Homeland Defense Journal Electronic Newsletter

The Homeland Defense Journal's May issue can be downloaded from their Internet page: www.homelanddefensejournal.com The free publication is based in Arlington, VA. Features in past issues focused on smallpox, data management, Bush's FY 2003 Budget supporting first responders, contingency planning and other issues concerning homeland security. The first six issues of the journal can be downloaded from the Internet.

Steps Taken To Resolve TIER Two E-File Problem . . .

Having gotten through the first full filing period for electronic filing of Tier Two Reports, we have found a few problems with the system. The primary problem would appear to be the failure of facilities to **mail copies of their reports to the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and to the fire department/district that has jurisdiction of their facility.** Since they have filed “electronically”, they presume that they are in compliance with EPCRA, not realizing that 40 CFR 370.41 still requires signed certification copies be submitted as previously listed.

At this time, the MERC has had a “reminder page” inserted in the Tier Two website that will remind facilities to mail these copies when they have completed their on-line report. As for future reporting, the MERC is still working with EPA to secure EPA’s approval to allow electronically filed reports to satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 370.41. This approval has been given to other states by their EPA Regions and the MERC feels confident that EPA Region VII will grant approval to Missouri as well.

The MERC is asking LEPCs with internet-access to log on to the Tier Two website with their county-access User IDs and compare the Tier Two reports listed there with the hard copies they have received. If they are missing hard copies for any of the reports listed on the website, they need to contact the facility or facilities and request copies be mailed.

Questions or comments regarding electronic Tier Two reporting can be directed to the MERC at 800-780-1014 or 573-526-9240 or by e-mail to jahart@mail.state.mo.us.

LEPC Funding Grant Applications Mailed the Week of May 15.

In an effort to distribute LEPC funds received from Tier Two Reporting fees in a more timely manner, the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) has moved up the timetable for the grant application procedure. LEPC Funding Grant Applications are being mailed to each Local Emergency Planning Committee/District and Presiding Commission for each county during the week of May 15, 2002.

These applications need to be completed and returned to the MERC no later than July 15, 2002. This will result in CEPF funds being distributed back to the counties by August 15, 2002. LEPCs will, therefore, have their funds available approximately 3 months earlier than in previous years.

This will affect only CEPF funds. The distribution schedule for HMEP funds that are received from US DOT will remain the same as in prior years.

Questions or comments regarding LEPC Funding Grant Applications can be directed to the MERC at 800-780-1014 or 573-526-9240 or by e-mail to jahart@mail.state.mo.us.

Advisory Committee for 911 Service Oversight Meets May 21

The Advisory Committee for 911 Service Oversight will meet at 1 p.m., May 21 at the State Emergency Management Agency.

Becky Miller of the Missouri Hospital Association will report on the EMS system. R. D. Porter will give FCC-Fifth Report and Order Update and a report on Curriculum Sub-Committee course approvals. The full committee will be asked to set policy on who may submit a course and to whom the certification will be issued to.

The committee will hear requests from St. Louis County for a waiver, St. Louis County ICS course review and Springfield course review and hear a report on HB 2151.

TV's ER Storyline Focuses on Infectious Disease Outbreak

The May 16 episode of the NBC TV program, "ER," features a storyline about an infectious disease outbreak that could be smallpox. Despite the fact that this disease was eradicated throughout the world over 20 years ago, the threat of an outbreak could cause a strong reaction from viewers who are afraid that they or a loved one may be at risk. Refer all media questions to the Department of Health.

Smallpox Talking Points

- **Smallpox does not occur in nature.** People cannot get smallpox by traveling to a foreign country, nor can they get it from people visiting this country. The only known stocks of the virus exist in high-security labs in Atlanta and Russia.
- **Other than through a criminal act, the risk of exposure to smallpox is zero.** While the chance of a criminal act occurring is very low, federal, state, and local governments are seriously working to ensure that if such an act occurs the United States is prepared to deal with it quickly and effectively. The government is focusing on three critical issues concerning smallpox: 1) \$1.1 billion was recently made available to states to enhance their bioterror preparedness planning. 2) The manufacture and purchase of additional stocks of vaccine is occurring. 3) The nation's top scientists are currently developing recommendations for vaccine distribution. Their recommendations are expected to be made to the federal government early this summer.
- **In the unlikely event of criminal exposure, vaccine would be made available to anyone who was exposed to the disease.** Vaccine given within 4 days of exposure can prevent the disease or lessen symptoms.

Secondary Talking Points

Vaccine

- The United States is continuing to expand its stockpile of smallpox vaccine and will be prepared to deploy it if necessary.
- Vaccine given within 4 days of exposure can prevent the disease or lessen symptoms. Vaccine against smallpox contains another live virus called *vaccinia*. The vaccine does not contain smallpox virus.
- The nation's top scientists are working on recommendations concerning vaccination. The critical concern is balancing the risks of the vaccine against the near zero possibility of smallpox exposure.

About the Disease

- Smallpox is spread from one person to another by infected saliva droplets that expose a susceptible person who has face-to-face contact with the ill person. Persons with smallpox are most infectious after the onset of rash.
- Vaccine given within 4 days of exposure can prevent the disease or lessen symptoms. The vaccine does not contain smallpox virus.
- The incubation range for smallpox is 7 to 17 days following exposure. Initial symptoms include high fever, fatigue, and head and backaches. A characteristic rash, most prominent on the face, arms, and legs, follows in 2-3 days. 70% of patients with smallpox recover.

Holden Issues Executive Order, Asks for PDAs For Statewide May Severe Storms and Flooding

Governor Holden issued an Executive Order allowing state resources to assist local government with flood recovery efforts. The severe storms began dumping rain May 6. According to the State Climatologist, Missouri averaged 6-9 inches of rain between May 6-15th with some counties receiving as much as seven inches of rain in one day. By the weekend of May 10, the storm system caused the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and the secondary and tributary rivers to exceed floodstage. River crests continued between May 14-16 on the Missouri, Meramac and the Mississippi Rivers at St. Louis. In response to flooding in Cape Girardeau County, the Memphis COE District constructed a temporary levy to protect home in the Dutch Town area. Additional storm systems are expected over the next several days.

Based on damage estimates from local officials, Holden formally requested state/federal preliminary damage assessments for impacted counties. The teams began surveying damages May 16. The surveys should continue through the weekend.